



Tennessee News Release

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

CORN ACREAGE TO EXPLODE; COTTON FACES SHARP DECLINE

NASHVILLE, March 30, 2007 – Tennessee farmers plan to increase corn acreage during 2007 to its highest level in over 20 years. This predicted surge, coupled with a sharp decline in cotton acreage in the State, is based on a March 1 survey of farmers conducted by the Tennessee Field Office of USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. The 42 percent increase in corn acreage is a result of a favorable price outlook, especially compared to cotton prices which have remained relatively stagnant. The primary factors holding back an even higher jump in corn acreage is the concern over possible tight seed supplies and high input costs, such as fertilizer and fuel. Other survey results show less hay to be harvested and a moderate decline in soybean acreage. Burley tobacco is expected to continue its downward trend, while more interest has been expressed for the dark tobacco types. Wheat seedings, originally published in January, have also been updated and are now projected to total 400,000 acres.

The March 1 survey showed the following results: **corn** acreage, up 42 percent from last year to 780,000 acres, the highest level since 1986; **soybeans** are expected to be down 8 percent to 1,070,000 acres and, if realized, the lowest acreage devoted to this crop since 2001; **cotton** intentions, at 560,000 acres, show a 20 percent decline from last year’s planted acreage of 700,000; **winter wheat** seedings last fall are estimated at 400,000 acres, up 20,000 up from the *Winter Wheat Seedings* report and 120,000 acres more than the year earlier; and **hay** acreage for harvest is intended at 1.78 million acres.

State Director, Debra Kenerson, was quick to note that, “The survey results only show what producers intend to plant as of March 1. Changes in commodity prices and weather conditions can be major factors in determining what farmers ultimately choose to produce during the 2007 crop season.”

Planted Acreage, 2005-2006 and Intended 2007, Tennessee and United States

Crop	2005	2006	2007 ¹	2007/2006	2005	2006	2007 ¹	2007/2006
Tennessee					United States			
	1,000 Acres			Percent	1,000 Acres			Percent
Corn	650	550	780	142	81,779	78,327	90,454	115
Sorghum	22	14	12	86	6,454	6,522	7,109	109
Winter wheat	240	280	400	143	40,433	40,575	44,505	110
Soybeans	1,130	1,160	1,070	92	72,032	75,522	67,140	89
Cotton, all	640	700	560	80	14,245.4	15,274.0	12,147.0	80
Tobacco, all ²	22.95	19.80	19.05	96	297.08	338.95	344.17	102
Dark fired-cured	5.50	5.30	5.50	104	11.84	11.65	13.05	112
Burley	17.00	14.00	13.00	93	100.15	103.60	107.50	104
Dark air-cured	0.45	0.50	0.55	110	4.15	4.50	4.85	108
Hay ²	1,885	1,830	1,780	97	61,729	60,807	63,056	104

¹ Intended plantings for 2007. ² Acres harvested.

U.S. SUMMARY

Corn growers intend to plant 90.5 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2007, up 15 percent from 2006 and 11 percent higher than 2005. If realized this would be the highest acreage since 1944, when 95.5 million acres were planted for all purposes. Expected acreage is up in nearly all States as high corn prices are encouraging farmers to plant more acres to corn.

Soybean producers intend to plant 67.1 million acres in 2007, down 11 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest planted area since 1996. Acreage decreases are expected in all growing areas, except in New York and the Southeast. Large decreases in soybean acreage are expected across the Corn Belt, with the largest decline expected in Illinois, down 1.40 million acres from 2006.

All **cotton** plantings for 2007 are expected to total 12.1 million acres, 20 percent below last year. Upland acreage is expected to total 11.9 million, down 21 percent from last year and the lowest since 1989. Growers intend to decrease planted area in all States with the largest acreage declines in Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Mississippi, and Texas.

All **tobacco** area for harvest in 2007 is expected to be 344,170 acres, up 2 percent from 2006 and 16 percent above 2005. Despite the increase, tobacco acreage is still below levels prior to the elimination of the tobacco quota program and price supports. An increase in burley acreage this year is expected to offset a slight decrease in flue-cured tobacco acreage. Acreage increases are also expected in fire-cured and dark-air cured.

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at www.nass.usda.gov